

HE THANKED GOD, AND TOOK COURAGE.

ACTS 28:11-16

11. After three months: after spending winter months on Malta. End of January. *We departed in a ship of Alexandria:* granary ship ... large enough for all prisoners to be transported to Rome. *Castor and Pollux:* Idols put on board as guardian gods to protect and bring good luck to sailors.

12. And landing at Syracuse, we tarried there three days. 100 miles from Malta

Syracuse: Famous city. Capital of Sicily ... people known for warrior spirit.

... fetched a compass made a circuit, navigated ... *south wind blew* favorable wind ... last time it was wrong (Acts 27) ... this time right. *Puteoli:* most important commercial port of Italy.

14. Where we found brethren, Christians everywhere knew of Paul.

... desired to tarry with them seven days: With centurion's permission allowed to stay with believers 7 days. *So we went to Rome.* Capital of world.

Appiiforum, 52 miles from Rome. Market place. Resort for sailors, traders and peddlers.

... three taverns: 32 miles from Rome

Paul in midst of prisoners ... walking rank and file with chains about feet. ... orderly fashion.

Phillips: *And in the midst of that hurly-burly of busy metropolis life marched heaven's ambassador in bonds, surrounded by chatting Christians, most of whom, if not all, he had never met before, but with whom he conversed as though they had known each other all their lives.*

Whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage.

✚ Tired and worn out ... weary of chains.

✚ Weary of no privacy.

✚ Weary of being attacked, maligned, threatened, beaten, stoned and left for dead, shipwrecked, etc.

✚ Weary of having to watch his back.

✚ Weary of being turned on by fellow Jews.

✚ Weary of wondering where the Christians were during his darkest and loneliest hours.

Took courage: gained confidence, was encouraged.

Captain of the guard: commander of camp; prefect, commander of praetorian cohorts, or emperor's guards.

With a soldier that kept him: with soldier to whom was chained (Acts 12:6)

Mission accomplished. All present and accounted for, sir!

... dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him. Preferential treatment.

God blesses Paul in this chapter:

1. Human authority respects him
2. People love him and show him kindness.
3. God meet his needs.
4. God gives him influence.
5. God fulfills promise to Paul.

Why God bless him? Faithful! Proverbs 20:6 Prov 28:20

Faithful: trustworthy, established, constant, firm, steady, consistent, steadfast, loyal.

Num 12:7 Neh 7:2 Psa 31:23 Psa 101:6 Prov 20:6 1 Cor 4:2 2 Tim 2:2

Horatius Bonar: *A holy life is made up of a multitude of small things. It is the little things of the hour and not the great things of the age that fill up a life like that of the apostles Paul or John, or David Brainard, or Henry Martyn. Little words, not eloquent speeches or sermons; little deeds, not miracles or battles, or one great heroic effort or martyrdom, make up the true Christian life. It's the little constant sunbeam, not the lightning, the waters of Siloam that go softly in their meek mission of refreshment, not 'the waters of the rivers great and many' rushing down in torrent, noise, and force, that are the true symbols of a holy life."*

Mac: These are some things that have helped me through the years:

1. Start small.
2. Be on time.
3. Do the hardest job first.
4. Organize your life.
5. Accept correction.
6. Practice self-denial.
7. Welcome responsibility.